



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 1942.

At least 14 outstanding records in American fishery production were smashed during 1941, thus making available a vast amount of food for the united nations fighting for democracy, it was revealed today in statistics submitted to Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes by the Division of Fishery Industries, Fish and Wildlife Service.

While experts pointed out that a small portion of the record-breaking increases was directly due to stimulation by war orders, favorable natural conditions affecting the Nation's aquatic resources were the major factors in bringing about the banner-year production.

An approximate doubling of the sardine pack in both California and Maine was due to demands under lend-lease operations, it was explained. At the same time, the net result of the industries' operations, carried on during the year under the protective conservation policies of the Department of the Interior, has been the accumulation of an extensive food fish stock for the United States and her allies.

"An examination of the data collected and assembled by this Division during the past year," said R. H. Fiedler, Chief of the Division, "indicates that 1941 was an unusually active year in the fishing industry, with at least 14 important records broken. It is probable that a more thorough check of our tabulations would disclose several additional new records."

A listing of the most significant records broken includes the following:

1. CALIFORNIA SARDINE PACK. Preliminary data indicate that the pack of California sardines during 1941 will approximate 5,400,000 standard cases. This will exceed by a wide margin the previous high of 3,831,000 cases which were canned during 1929.

2. MAINE SARDINE PACK. Preliminary estimates of the Maine sardine pack indicate that the total production of this item may reach 4 million standard cases. The largest previous pack known to be reported was canned in 1928, and amounted to 2,056,000 cases.

3. THREE PORTS LANDINGS. It is estimated that the 1941 landings at the ports of Boston and Gloucester, Massachusetts, and Portland, Maine, will reach approximately 475,000,000 pounds, valued at \$15,000,000. The largest previous

landings at these ports occurred during 1936, amounting to 414,767,000 pounds; while the largest amount received by fishermen for their catch occurred in 1929 and amounted to \$13,052,000.

4. LANDINGS AT GLOUCESTER. During 1941, it is estimated that landings of fishery products at Gloucester will approximate 150 million pounds. The largest volume of fishery products previously delivered to this port by fishing vessels amounted to 96,176,000 pounds, landed in 1940. Prior to 1940, the largest landings occurred in 1939, when 75,766,000 pounds were received.

5. ROSEFISH LANDINGS. It is estimated that about 140,000,000 pounds of rosefish were landed at the three ports during 1941. The previous record for this species was 83,781,000 pounds, which was received in 1940.

6. COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS. On December 15, domestic cold storage plants held 117,273,000 pounds of fishery products, an increase of over 17,000,000 pounds as compared with the largest holdings in any previous year, which occurred on December 15, 1940, and amounted to 100,088,000 pounds.

7. PRODUCTION OF FROZEN FISH. During 1941, domestic cold storage plants froze 246,364,000 pounds of fishery products. The largest volume of frozen fish and shellfish previously produced in this country was 196,155,000 pounds frozen in 1940.

8. SHRIMP FROZEN. A total of 19,739,000 pounds of frozen shrimp was produced in the United States during 1941. This is an increase of nearly 3 million pounds as compared with the previous high which occurred in 1940.

9. ROSEFISH FROZEN. Domestic freezers froze 33,394,000 pounds of rosefish fillets during 1941. This was an increase of over 14 million pounds as compared with the previous high of 19,156,000 pounds produced in 1940.

10. SEPTEMBER COLUMBIA RIVER CATCH. About 8 million pounds of chinook salmon were taken in the Columbia River during the period from September 10 to 20. The September catch was the largest for any single month in the history of the fishery.

11. ALASKA PINK SALMON PACK. A total of 4,621,000 cases of pink salmon was canned in Alaska during 1941. The previous high for this species was packed in 1936, and amounted to 4,589,000 cases.

12. ALASKA SILVER SALMON PACK. Alaska cannerys packed 350,000 standard cases of silver salmon during 1941. The previous record occurred during 1930, when the pack totaled 330,000 cases.

13. PRICES FOR SHARK LIVERS. The record prices of \$9.20 per pound for soup-fin shark livers and 51 cents per pound for dogfish livers which were paid fishermen on the Pacific Coast, greatly exceeded any previous prices paid for fish livers.

14. BRITISH COLUMBIA RECORDS. While a large number of records were being broken in the United States, the province of British Columbia also produced the largest salmon and herring packs in history. The 2,242,000 standard cases of salmon canned in the province during 1941 exceeded the previous record pack, which was canned in 1930, by 20,000 cases.

The pack of canned herring in British Columbia during 1941 is expected to total over 1 million cases. In the best previous year, 1941, the pack of this species amounted to 727,000 cases; in 1939, the next best year, only 233,000 cases were canned.